## Maryland Historical Trust
## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form    Survey No. B-5030

# 1. Name

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Historic | ~~600 - 636 South Dexter Street~~ | 600-636 Archer Street |
| and / common | | |

# 2. Location

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| street & number | ~~600 - 636 South Dexter Street~~ | 600-636 Archer Street |
| city, town | Baltimore | |
| state & zip code | Maryland     21205 | county |

# 3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __ district | __ public | X occupied | __ agriculture | __ museum |
| X building(s) | X private | __ unoccupied | __ commercial | __ park |
| __ structure | __ both | __ work in progress | __ educational | X private residence |
| __ site | **Public Acquisition** | **Accessible** | _entertainment | __ religious |
| __ object | __ in process | X yes: restricted | __ government | __ scientific |
| | __ being considered | __ yes: unrestricted | __ industrial | __ transportation |
| | __ not applicable | __ no | __ military | __ other: |

# 4. Owner of Property

| | |
|---|---|
| name | |
| street & number | telephone |
| city, town | state & zip code |

# 5. Location of Legal Description

| | |
|---|---|
| courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.  Baltimore City Land Records | liber |
| street & number            Clarence Mitchell Courthouse | folio |
| city, town      Baltimore                         State      Maryland | |

# 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| title | | | | |
| date | federal | state | county | local |
| depository for survey records | | | | |
| city, town | | state & zip code | | |

# 7. Description

| Condition | | Check One | Check One |
|---|---|---|---|
| __ excellent | __ deteriorated | __ unaltered | X   original site |
| __ good | __ ruins | X   altered | __ moved: |
| __ fair | __ unexposed | | date of move: _____ |

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of five two-story, two-bay wide early Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and simple, scroll-sawn bracketed cornices were built in 1870 by Henry and George Cook,  major builders of working class houses in East Baltimore. The houses retain their original brick facades, which have been painted, and evidence remains that their basements were originally painted white, to imitate the marble used in more expensive houses.

The houses are two stories in height, **12' and 13' wide and occupy lots 52' deep**. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in running bond and were originally painted.   The basement area was painted white, to imitate marble, as was common in houses of this type.  Each house has a single hooded chimney located at the rear corner of the house. The shed roofs are capped by a continuous wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by simple scroll-sawn brackets decorated with grooves  and turnings.  Or , supported by simple grooved modillions.   The tall, narrow window and door openings have segmentally arched brick lintels and scroll-sawn tympanums.  Several of the original 2/2 sash survive.  The sills are wood. The single light doorway transom is decorated by a cut-work band of scallops. The houses sit on high basements, lit by a double-light sash, also with a scroll-sawn tympanum.   Each house was originally reached by four wooden steps.

**Sig.**

This simple form of small street house is typical of those built in the 1870s, often in neighborhoods of predominantly three story houses, like Union Square or the nearby Madison Square.

The houses were built by Steptoe Hutt, a fairly prolific Baltimore builder, according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's new neighborhoods of the 1870s and 1880s.  Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and north-east of the central city.  Builders like Hutt acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks.  Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for $         ; small street houses for $                 .

Hutt sold all of the houses he built--on Lanvale, Spring, and Caroline Streets to German owner-occupants, who received their mortgages from a select group of local North-East Baltimore building and loans, including notably, the 21st German-American Building Association.  Some of the first buyers of these homes on Spring Street were _____ , a _____

**or**

This group of houses is significant as representing a very plain type of small street house that was constructed to serve as rental housing for the working class residents of the area, most of whom were German at the time of construction. The houses were built by -------------------------Baltimore builder, according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period c. 1880 to 1910.  Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and north- east of

the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for $    ; small street houses for $        . Occasionally, the builder retained ownership of his small street houses to provide income for himself as rental properties. In this way people of varying means could afford to live in the same block. If they couldn't afford the approximately $750 purchase price of the small street houses, then they *could* afford the $8 or so a month it would cost to rent one, while they saved to be able to buy their own home later.

# 3. Significance

| Period | Area of significance | check one & justify | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __ prehistoric | __ archeology-prehistoric | X community planning | __ landscape architecture | __ religion |
| __ 1400-1499 | __ archeology-historic | __ conservation | __ law | __ science |
| __ 1500-1599 | __ agriculture | __ economics | __ literature | __ sculpture |
| __ 1600-1699 | X architecture | __ education | __ military | X social/ |
| __ 1700-1799 | __ art | __ engineering | __ music | humanitarian |
| X 1800-1899 | __ commerce | __ exploration | __ philosophy | __ theatre |
| __ 1900 | __ communications | __ industry | __ politics/government | __ transportation |
| | | __ invention | | __ other: specify |

**Specific dates  c. 1870**                              **Builder/Architect**

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

These houses are significant as representing a relatively plain type of small street house that was constructed to provide inexpensive housing for the working class residents of the area, most of whom were German or Irish at the time of construction. The houses were built according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the middle and late nineteenth century. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and north-east and southwest of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell $1,000 - $1,500;  small street houses for $600 - $800.  Occasionally, the builder retained ownership of his small street houses to provide income for himself as rental properties. In this way people of varying means could afford to live in the same block. If they couldn't afford the purchase price of the small street houses, then they *could* afford the $8 or so a month it would cost to rent one, while they saved to be able to buy their own home later.

The houses are especially significant because of their proximity to the Baltimore & Ohio railroad yards, the nation's first railroad, and its related railroad-oriented industries, like car and rail shops. Housing of this type was built to provide inexpensive housing for the wide variety of both Irish and German immigrants who came to southwest Baltimore to work in railroad-related industries in the decades after the Civil War.

# 9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

# 10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

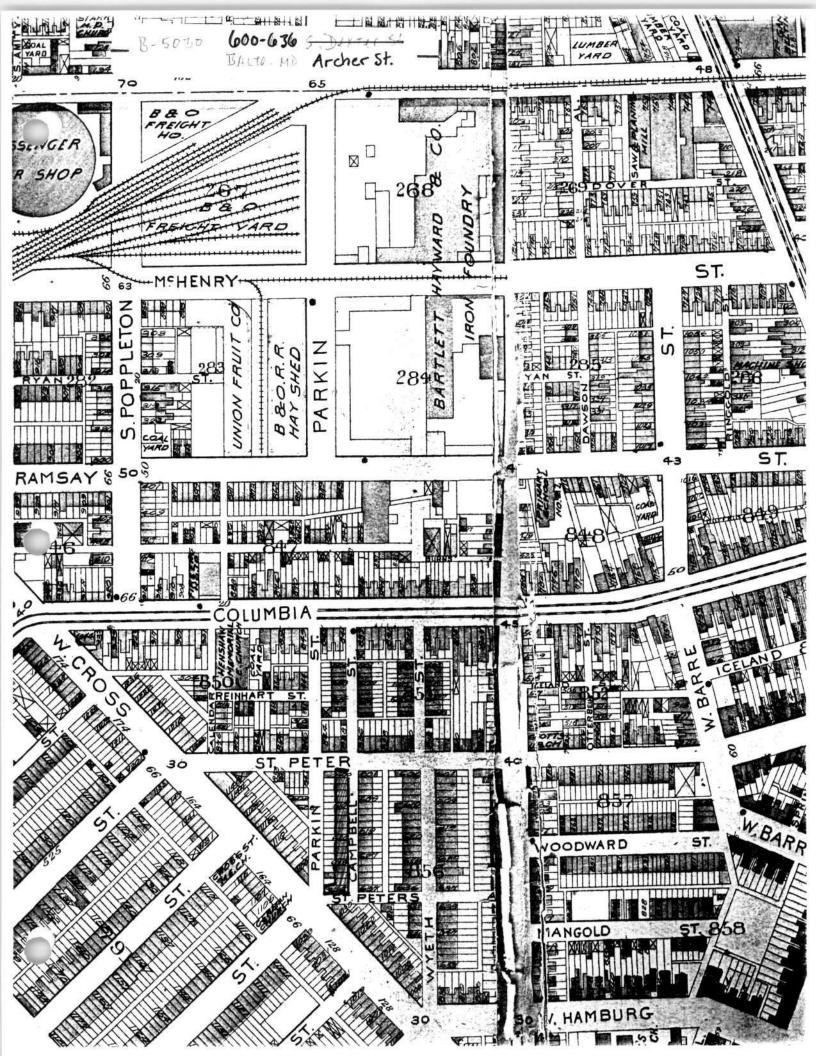Verbal boundary description and justification

# 11. Form Prepared by

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| name / title | Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward | |
| Organization | The Alley House Project | date |
| street & number | 1306 Carrollton Ave. | telephone |
| city, town | Baltimore | state & zip code    Maryland    21204 |

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

Return to:
DHCP/DHCD
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD    21032-2023

S. AMITY
STARR
M.P.
CHURCH
COAL YARD

PASSENGER CAR SHOP

B & O FREIGHT HO.

LUMBER YARD

COAL YARD

70

65

48

267
B & O FREIGHT YARD

268
HAYWARD & CO.

BARTLETT IRON FOUNDRY

DOVER   ST.

269

ST.

63   McHENRY

66   63

S. POPPLETON

308
309
316
313
320

283
ST.

UNION FRUIT CO.

B & O. R. R. HAY SHED

PARKIN

284

YAN   ST.

DAWSON

285

288

MACHINE SHO.

COAL YARD

RYAN   289

RAMSAY   66   50

50

ST.

43   ST.

46

COAL YARD

848

849

COLUMBIA

45

847

850

REINHART   ST.

ST.   ST.

5 ST.

W. BARRE

ICELAND

W. CROSS

ST.

ST.

PARKIN

CAMPBELL

WYETH

ST. PETER

857

40

ST.   ST.

856

WOODWARD   ST.

855

ST. PETERS

W. BARR

30

ST.

MANGOLD   ST. 858

G   ST.

525

ST.

30   W. HAMBURG.

B-5030
600-636 Archer Street
Block 0855  Lots 001-019
Baltimore City
Baltimore West Quad



GIS data Courtesy of
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS